

III Criterion of NAAC Research, Consultancy and Extension : A Case Study of School of Education, DAVV, Indore

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Abstract

The life of the individuals and the nation cannot be uplifted without Quality Higher Education. With the sole objective to give a helping hand to the Institutions to improve the Quality of Higher Education, NAAC has designed the seven criterion system for the assessment and accreditation procedure. This research paper deals with III criterion of NAAC out of the seven criteria. It is a Case Study of University Teaching Department in which the researcher studied all the six key aspects under the III Criterion – Research, Consultancy and Extension. This criterion seeks information on the policies, practices and outcomes of the Institutions with reference to Research, Consultancy and Extension. The reason to choose this criterion is that NAAC provides 35% of weightage to it, for Autonomous Colleges. It throws light on the efforts and strengths of School of Education (SOE) to promote a research culture. It's Quality of Research and Extension Work is known all over the Nation which distinguishes it from the other Institutions in the country and makes it an ideal symbol for the other Teacher Education Institutions. The authors have outlined all the policies and practices carried by the Department by categorizing under the six key aspects of III Criterion.

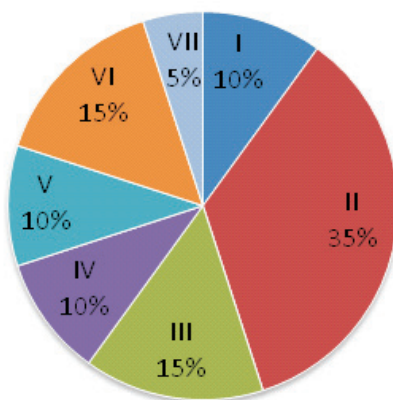
Keywords: Collaborations, Consultancy, Criterion, Extension, Linkage.

Higher Education is a backbone of any society. It is the Quality of Higher Education that decides the quality of Human Resources in the Country. The Higher Education sector ensures Quality of the educational process with the help of Accreditation agencies established for the purpose. The main agency which accredits Universities and Colleges in General education is the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) established by UGC in 1994 with headquarters at Bangalore.

The NAAC has categorized the Higher Education Institutions into three major types and assigned different weightages to these criteria. The criterion-wise differential weightages for the three types of Higher Education Institutions are detailed in the Table 1.

Table 1. Weightages of Seven Criteria used by NAAC for three types of Higher Education Institutions

No	Categories	Uni.	Au.	Aff. / Con
I	Curricular Aspects	150 (15%)	100 (10%)	50 (5%)
II	Teaching, Learning and Evaluation	250 (25%)	350 (35%)	450 (45%)
III	Research, Consultancy and Extension	200 (20%)	150 (10%)	100 (10%)
IV	Infrastructure and Learning Resources	100 (10%)	100 (10%)	100 (10%)
V	Student Support and Progression	100 (10%)	100 (10%)	100 (10%)
VI	Governance and Leadership	150 (15%)	150 (15%)	150 (15%)
VII	Innovative Practices	50 (5%)	50 (5%)	50 (5%)



Weightages for Autonomous Colleges and Department

Figure 1. Pie- Chart showing Weightages of Seven Criteria for Autonomous Colleges and Departments

III Criterion is further divided into six ‘Key Aspects’.

Key Aspects wise differential Weightages of III Criterion. The Key aspects identified under this criterion are:

Key Aspects	Uni.	Au.	Aff. /Con
Promotion of Research	40	30	15
Research and Publication Output	90	50	25
Consultancy	20	10	05
Extension Activities	30	40	40
Collaborations	10	10	05
Best Practices in Research, Consultancy and Extension	10	10	10
Total	200	150	100

Rationale of the Present Study

Higher Education Institutions include college and university teaching departments for students' progress to attain higher educational qualifications. Higher Education imparts in-depth knowledge and understanding so as to advance the students to new frontiers of knowledge in different walks of life. It is recognised as one of the critical elements of National Development. It is a powerful tool to build knowledge based society. The quality of higher education plays a vital role in the overall development of the Nation. In India, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) assesses and accredits Institutes of Higher Education. In the grasp of Quantitative success, there is Qualitative failure. But, "School of Education" Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV), Indore, has maintained its standard and quality in the field of Teacher Education. It is playing an important role in preparing the Teachers of Tomorrow, not only in terms of quantity but quality also. These trends led the researcher to conduct the present study. The researcher has conducted Case Study of "School of Education" DAVV, Indore in the context of III criterion of NAAC for assessment and accreditation of Higher Education Institutions.

Objectives of the Study

1. To conduct Case study of "School of Education" DAVV, Indore in the context of III criterion of NAAC that is Research, Consultancy and Extension.
2. To study in-depth the six key aspects of III criterion of NAAC by conducting Case Study of "School of Education" DAVV, Indore.

Sample of the Present Research

Sample of the present research is "School of Education", DAVV. The researcher purposely chose a University Teaching Department of DAVV namely "School Of Education" for thorough, intensive and in-depth study, in the context of III criterion of NAAC for assessment and accreditation of Higher Education Institutions.

Tools and Techniques used for Data Collection

In the present study the tools of data collection were:

- (a) Questionnaire.
- (b) Interview Schedule.
- (c) Observation Proforma
- (d) Experiences (researcher was the part of the University Teaching Department)

(a) Questionnaire: Questionnaire included questions related to III criteria and its key aspects. It contained open- ended type of questions which were filled by members of the department who were directly or indirectly part of “School of Education” DAVV.

- (1) Questionnaire for Head of the Department.
- (2) Questionnaire for Teachers and Research Fellows.

Interview Schedule: Head and authoritative members of Department were interviewed to provide data related to “School of Education” DAVV.

Observations Performa: In present research observation of people is not required but observation of the environment is one of the best tools for collecting data. Researcher being a student of M. Ed while conducting this research also used observation as a tool for data collection. This tool provided valuable background information about the environment of SOE, DAVV. During observation the researcher found that the overall functioning of the department is smooth. Planning and execution of the different programs go hand in hand. Researcher also observed that facilities are provided and efforts are made by the institution to promote a research culture.

Experiences: Researcher was also a part of the Department. During the study the researcher found that the department is one of the best teacher’s training institute because it focuses on the holistic development of the students. Along with the studies the students are made aware of their environment and society so that they can play significant role for betterment of the country. The alumni data reveals the facts that the students of this Department are placed at different posts and are providing their best services. The Department is serving the community through research and extension work which was experienced by the researcher her self.

Other Sources of Data Collection: Besides these, information was also procured from reports, records, books, files, researches, documents, research registers etc of the department and website of the University for collecting data for the study.

Procedure of Data Collection

After construction of suitable data gathering devices the next step of the researcher was to administer the tool and to collect the necessary and desired data. First of all, permission was sought from the Head

of the Department for collecting data through Questionnaire, Interview Schedule and other sources. Side by side Observation was also being done by the researcher as a part of procedure of data collection. The researcher procured data from all these sources through, in-depth and intensive study of “School of Education” DAVV, Indore.

Data Analysis

After collecting the data, analysis of data was done. The researcher checked the questionnaires by following content analysis method. She sorted and reduced the collected information to manageable proportions followed by analysis of facts so as to bring out the major features that are search for trends, patterns and relationships, interpreted the results and converted data into statements and conclusions under the different Key Aspects.

Results and Discussion

Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension–SOE, DAVV

Promotion of Research

- Departmental Research Committee (DRC) at SOE, DAVV consists of following members:
 - ✓ Coordinator: Prof. H.R.Pal
 - ✓ Dy. Coordinator: Prof. S.K.Tyagi
 - ✓ Member: Dr. Archana Dubey
- Promoting research work by guiding M. Ed, M. Phil and Ph. D students for dissertation and researches.
- Also at B. Ed level projects are given to students, to introduce them with the research work.
- Research is promoted through seminars and workshops organised at local, national and international levels.
- Through publications also promotions of research is done at the Department.
- If needed teachers are given leave for promotion of research work outside the department.
- For promoting research through seminars, workshops and other activities, time to time adjustments in teaching schedule are made at the Department.
- For promoting research, teachers are provided with the seed money by funding agencies.
- All faculty members with Ph. D are engaged in research work.

- Faculties at the department are guiding about 80 Ph.D students, 16 M. Phil students and 30 M. Ed students for research work.
- Along with this Ph.D viva are conducted at the Department.
- UGC- SAP DRS Phase-3 is ongoing at SOE, DAVV.
- Some of the non Ph. D faculty members have submitted their Ph. D thesis, others are pursuing.

Research and Publication Output

- Approximately 135 research papers have been published in reputed journals, 17 books and 10 psychological tests are published collectively by all the faculties of the Department.
- Multiple Choice Question (MCQs) in Research Development and Statistics in Social Science are developed at the Departments.
- Development of Instructional Material in Psychological Practical by Prof. H.R. Pal and Mr. Rakesh Devda.
- Development of Instructional Material in Hindi Grammar by Prof. H.R. Pal and Mr. R.Hurmada (ongoing).
- Development of Video Instructional Material in Educational Psychology by Prof. H.R. Pal and Mr. H. Sharma (ongoing).
- Development of Objective Test Item in Educational Psychology by Prof. H.R. Pal.
- Development of Objective Test Item in Philosophy and Sociology of Education for M. Phil (Education), Entrance Test by Dr. Archana Dubey.
- Development of Objective Test Items in Research Methodology and Statistics for M. Phil (Education), Entrance Test by Dr. S. K Tyagi.

Consultancy

- Department is providing consultancy in Research Methodology, SPSS and Guidance and Counselling etc.
- Consultancy Services are provided through memberships in different committees and National Bodies like UGC, NAAC, NCTE, MHRD, IGNOU, ICSSR etc.
- Many of the Faculties of the Department are members of Review Committee, Evaluation Boards, Board of Studies, Admission Committee, Research Committees etc through which they provide Consultancy Services to the Community.

Extension Activities

- There is an Extension Activity Committee at SOE, DAVV. Details are as follows:
 - ✓ Coordinator: Dr. Rama Mishra
 - ✓ Dy. Coordinator: Dr. Kamakshi Agnihotri
 - ✓ Members: Dr. Madhulika Varma, Mr. Mohan Singh Bamaniya, Ms. Chetna Shukla, Ms. Veena Paithankar
- There is also a Seminar/ Workshop Committee at SOE, DAVV:
 - ✓ Coordinator: Dr. Archana Dubey
 - ✓ Dy. Coordinator: Mr. Avtarjeet Singh
 - ✓ Members: Dr. Rama Mishra, Dr. Kamakshi Agnihorti, Ms. Veena Paithankar, Dr. Madhulika Varma
- Students are encouraged to participate in Extension Activities through awareness programmes, field visits, participation in seminars/ workshops/extension lectures, field projects and school experience.
- Some activities are organised in collaboration with NSS, Blood Relief Association and Association for Mentally Handicapped.
- National Seminar on “ICT in Teacher Education –Vision 2020” was organized on 18th and 19th of March, 2010.
- Computer Awareness programme was organized in the Govt. High School of Village Dudhiya for twenty girl students of class 9th during August, 2010 to November, 2011. Every Tuesday two hours classes of basic computer course were conducted in the School of village Dudhiya. The students actively participated in the programme.
- Workshop on “Uses of SPSS in Social Science Research” was organised during January 3-9, 2011.
- A Workshop was organized on “Models of Teaching” during February 18-19, 2011, at the department. Models Covered: Training Model and Communication Model. These models of teaching happen to be one of the thrust areas of Educational Technology. Both these models concentrated on the mastery of skills based on Behaviour Modification.
- UGC Refresher Course in “Research methodology in Social Science” March 3-4, 2011, at the Department by Academic Staff College, DAVV, Indore. Topics: Major data forms: Data entry considerations, T-test: Data entry, Analysis and Interpretation.

- Health Awareness Programmes were organized for people of slum areas in Indore with the help of health professionals of Indore.
 - ✓ On December 18th, 2011, Free Health check-up and counselling at Banganga
By: Dr. Prashant Joshi, Neurologist.
 - ✓ On January 20th, 2012, Free Health check-up and follow up at Gandhi Nagar
By: Dr. Shiela Verma, Anesthetist.
 - ✓ On February 11, 2012, Free Health check-up and counselling at Dharampuri
By: Dr. Seema Vijayvargiya, Gynecologist, Pre marriage counsellor.
 - ✓ On March 25, 2012, Free Health check-up, Banganga
By: Dr. Shiela Verma.

All the above health programmes were organized with the aim of providing health awareness to the people of slum area. In this way the Department is helping in providing free health checkups, Diet plans and specially making the people aware about Hygiene, Pre-marriage Counselling etc and thus discharging its obligation to the community.

- Computer Awareness Programme was organized for students of slum area-Visarjan Ashram, Navlakha from August, 2011 to March, 2012. A total number of 20 students of class 7th participated in the programme. On demand of Visarjan Ashram, every Tuesday Computer Awareness (2 hours) classes were conducted in Visarjan Ashram. Every Friday Computer Practical classes for 2 hours were organized in the Departmental Computer Laboratory.
- Health and Career guidance was given to children of rural areas.
- One day Seminar was organized on “Environmental Awareness” on January 17, 2012. The speaker was Hon. Padmshree Kutti Menon. This Program was unique because many eminent persons from the field of education and other fields participated in the program. The speaker answered the questions posed by the students.
- National Level Workshop was conducted in the department during 15-17 March 2012. Theme of the workshop was “Research Writing in Social Sciences”. Forty participants from various parts of India and 25 students from M. Ed class attended the workshop and were benefitted from it.
- Seminar on “Popularizing Environmental Science and Solar Technologies in India”.
- 16 July 2012, National Seminar on ‘Conclave on Reform in Higher Education’ Sponsored by DAVV, Department of Higher Education, M.P and World Bank was organised at E.M.R.C.
- Computer Awareness Programme was organized for the students of slum area-“Govt. Middle School, Tejaji Chowk, Palda” during February, 2011 to March, 2012. Every Monday computer

classes were conducted in the School for (2 hours) using SAP Mobile Van and Computer Units.

- During April 10, 2012 to May 4, 2012, twenty one days course was conducted for 20 students of class 8th of the school. In this course daily 2 hours practical classes were conducted in the Computer laboratory of School of Education.
- 05 December, 2012 Lecture on Breast Cancer Awareness for female students of School of Education was arranged. The Expert Resource Person was Dr. Seema Vijaywargiya, renowned Oncologist of Indore.
- Seminar on “Fostering Excellence in Research in Higher Education” was organised on 15 January 2013.
- National Level Workshop was conducted in the Department on 04-10 February 2013. Theme of the workshop was “Statistical Analysis for Social Science Research Including Education”. Forty five Participants belonging to 13 subjects and 7 universities including IIT and IIM attended the workshop and were benefitted from it.
- National Seminar on ICT for Quality Research in Education: Concern, Issues and Role was conducted on March 18-19, 2013 in the Department. Seminar was attended by about 125 participants belonging to six states. About 70 papers were presented by the delegates in the two day’s seminar.
- Computer awareness programmes for children of slum and rural areas were conducted during 13 February to 08 March, 2013. 21 days Programme was organized for students and teachers of slum area-Govt. Middle School, Village Agar, Tehsil Depalpur, Dist. Indore. Thirty Students of class 6th, 7th and 8th participated in the programme. Eight teachers of School also participated in the Programme. Following topics were covered in the practical classes: Notepad, WordPad, Paint, MS-Word, MS-Excel, Internet Health and Career guidance was given to rural area children.

Collaborations

- Academic linkage with different apex bodies like IGNOU, MPBOU, Kota Open University etc.
- Twenty students of M. Ed of Special Education visited Rehabilitation centre for mentally ill women on November 6, 2011. The objectives of the visit were to acquaint students with the causes of mental illness, treatment and role of family, society and community in Rehabilitation of these women. This visit gave the real base line and unique centre of attention to the students of M. Ed class. All the students got firsthand experience and practical knowledge about rehabilitation of mentally ill women.

- Twenty students of B. Ed class visited Solar Energy Plant Situated at Sanawadiya on January 3, 2012. This visit gave them first hand information about Solar Energy and various uses of Solar Energy.
- Twenty students of B. Ed class visited Barli Gram (Vijay-nagar) on January 10, 2012, with an objective of gaining actual knowledge as per the requirement of the syllabus under the subject named “Education and Environment” This visit was quite useful for the students.
- Eleven students of B. Ed class visited Readymade Complex with an Objective of giving them actual knowledge as per the requirement of the Syllabus under the subject/work experience named “Sewing and Embroidery” This visit was beneficial for the students.
- August 23, 2012: Tree Plantation was organized by NSS and School of Education, DAVV.
- 05 October, 2012, Amity University B.Ed. Staff and Students visited School of Education to get an exposure of resources and activities.

Best Practices in Research, Consultancy and Extension

- Department is running UGC SAP DRS Phase III.
- Self instructional material in electronic and digital form is developed.
- Department is organising Computers Awareness Programmes for children of slum and rural area.
- Department is conducting Psychological Testing Programmes of rural area children (9th and 10th Classes).
- Career Guidance is provided to students of rural area.

Conclusion

“School of Education”, is one of the oldest Departments of Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, established in the year 1965. It is situated at the University Campus of DAVV, Takshshila Campus, Bhawarkuwa, Indore. The Department is facilitating and making efforts to promote research work in the society. It is serving the community through its extension activities, which is the social responsibility of all the Institutes. It has strong linkages with the stakeholders and is responsive to the needs of the community. The department is actively engaged in training and developing instructional and other teaching learning materials. The Department is well known across the Nation for the Quality it is providing to society and acts as a benchmark Institute for other newly established Teacher Training Institutions. Below mentioned points distinguish the Department from the other Institutes in the III criterion (Research, Consultancy and Extension) of NAAC:

- Department supports professional development activities that engage its teachers in research in education.
- Faculty of the department are actively involved in research and publication work. Promotion of research is an integral part of the department.
- It organises seminars, workshops, symposium etc. at various levels.
- It also encourages its students to be a continuous learner.
- Faculties are engaged in training and developing instructional and other teaching learning material.
- Consultancy services are provided at the department through membership in committees.
- Activities are organised in collaborations with NGO's. Community services are provided through different programmes.
- Department is having Departmental Research Committee (DRC) to look after the activities of research.
- Timely adjustment in teaching schedule takes place at department for workshops and seminars.
- 90% of the faculty are having Ph.D. degrees which reflect their research acumen.
- Awareness programmes are organised by the department for students, faculties, teachers and community.
- The Department organised Ph.D coursework classes (2013), not only for students of Education but also for students of Psychology and Military Sciences.

From the above mentioned points Researcher concludes that

- The Department encourages its faculty to publish in academic forums.
- The Department is responsive to community needs and conducts relevant extension programmes.
- The Department is encouraging its faculties to provide consultancy services to the school sector and to be actively engaged in their respective fields of expertise.
- The Department has a strong institute-school-community networking and linkages with national and international research and academic organisations.
- The III criterion of NAAC seeks information on the policies, practices and outcomes of the institution with reference to Research, Consultancy and Extension. Above data states that SOE, DAVV is providing facilities and making efforts to promote a research culture and serving the community through research and extension activities, which is a social responsibility and a core value to be demonstrated by all other institutions.

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Web Links

- University Grants Commission: <http://www.ugc.ac.in/index.html>
- The National Assessment and Accreditation Council: <http://naacindia.org/>
- Accredited institutions: <http://naacindia.org/accreditedall.asp>
- Bureau of Indian Standards: <http://www.bis.org.in/>
- Commonwealth of Learning, Canada: <http://www.col.org>
- International Network For Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education: <http://www.inqaahe.org/>
- International Organization for Standardisation: <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/ISOOnline.frontpage>
- National Assessment and Accreditation Council, India: <http://www.naac-india.com/>
- National Assessment and Accreditation Council, India: <http://www.naacindia.org/>
- National Council For Teacher Education, India: <http://www.ncte-in.org/>
- Quality Council of India: <http://www.qcin.org/>